(e) Failure of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

(f) No individual has been held responsible for the incident.

No Action Taken Report has been prepared in view of this report being interim in nature.

Andheri - Ghatkopar rail line

578. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to start any new rail service between Andheri and Ghatkopar in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Indian Railways are not planning introduction of any new rail service between Andheri and Ghatkopar.

(b) Government of Maharashtra through Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has programmed provision of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) between Andheri and Ghatkopar as Phase-I of their Mumbai Metro Master Plan.

Rail accidents

† 579. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail accidents during the year 2004-05;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to relatives of passengers killed or seriously injured in the said accidents;

(c) the details of losses suffered by Railways in the said accidents, separately; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken to check the recurrence of such accidents?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the year 2004-05 there have been 197* consequential train accidents from April, 2004 to January, 2005, which include 12 collisions, 116 derailments, 5 manned level crossing gate accidents, 55 unmanned level crossing accidents, 8 fire in trains and 1 miscellaneous accident

(b) In these 197* accidents, 151* persons including 50* passengers were killed and 143* persons including 61* passengers sustained grievous injury. Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal, and a decree is awarded. No compensation has been paid so far. however, Rs. 70.34 lakhs have been paid as *ex-gratia* relief to the injured and to kith and kin of the deceased for the accidents occurring during 2004-05 (upto January, 2005).

(c) The loss suffered by Railways in these accidents has been Rs. 25.52 crores*

(d) Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include adoption of suitable and modem technologies for interlocking and signaling systems, upgradatjoh of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over aged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device. A Corporate Safety Plan (2003— 2013) has also been prepared and is followed.

Renovation of railway lines

580. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government carry out renovation work of railway lines each year;

(b) if so, the railway lines renovated (in Km.) during the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount spent in this regard, year-wise?

*Provisional figures

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.